

## **Editorial : The European Biophysics Journal and EBSA**

Since the adoption of the current title of the Journal in 1984, the European Biophysics Journal has had a close relationship with EBSA. The Journal has been for many years the location of the EBSA Calendar of Events, detailing scientific activities of many of the Member Societies of the Association, and individual members of the Societies have been responsible for supporting the Journal by serving as members of the Editorial Board and the Advisory Editorial Board. In addition, members have frequently fulfilled the important role of expert reviewers of submitted manuscripts, as well as being the authors of original research papers. The publishers of the Journal, Springer Verlag of Heidelberg, have also published a number of monographs in the Springer Series in Biophysics which was based initially on Workshops, organised by the member societies of EBSA, either individually or in conjunction with one another. Over this period of time, the Journal has grown, albeit somewhat slowly, but steadily.

A major change has been in place since early 1996, when an agreement was implemented between EBSA and the publishers conferring joint ownership of the Journal, shared between the two parties. At the same time, a personal subscription was introduced, making it possible for individual members of the member societies to become subscribers for a modest price. This is presently set at DM 150 plus post and packing. Full details can be obtained from the EBJ and EBSA Web pages (see below). This arrangement promises a new degree of financial stability for the Journal and for EBSA. This will improve further as the number of personal subscribers increases, a development we hope all will support. This change comes at a time when the Editorial Board is making a special effort to increase the size of the Journal and its publishing frequency, through the encouragement to colleagues to submit their best work to the Journal in the form of EBJ Invited Reviews, original Research Articles, and as Biophysics Letters. This latest new feature was described in an Editorial in European Biophysics Journal 24 (5) 275-276 published in July 1996 to coincide with the IUPAB XIIth Congress of Biophysics, Amsterdam. The purpose of Biophysics Letters is to provide a means for the rapid publication of significant new findings and concepts in Biophysics, with accelerated publication available for work which is basically acceptable in the submitted form, and which meets the Journal's normal high standards of rigour and originality. The Editor for Biophysics Letters is Professor Erich Sackmann. Details of contacts and submission to the Journal are given elsewhere in this Issue, and on the EBJ Home page, together with Instructions for Authors. Specific enquiries can always be addressed to me at the Editorial Office. In addition, the Journal is pleased to support the Congress by the publication of this volume of Abstracts, each section of which has been reviewed by the co-chairman of the corresponding sessions of the Congress.

These developments come at a time that EBSA is planning to establish the Congress on a regular basis for the foreseeable future. Details of current EBSA business can be found on the Home Page. At the same time there are important developments in electronic publishing and access. The contents of the Journal can be viewed on the Springer Home Page, and full articles are available for electronic subscribers. Thus this Congress comes at an important turning point in the Journal's history. The Editorial Board invites all members to participate in the strengthening and development of the Journal as an international venue for Biophysics : this will directly aid EBSA to achieve its objectives.

On behalf of the Editorial Board, I should like to thank all those colleagues in Orleans whose devoted efforts have ensured the timely production of this Issue, and to wish this Congress all success, both as a scientific meeting of high quality, and as a venue where long-lasting personal friendships can be strengthened in the common interests of a fascinating, productive and important field of scientific endeavour. We wish good luck to EBSA, and hope to see the relationship between EBSA and the Journal continue to develop to mutual benefit, in helping to promote the further development of Biophysics within a European context, and to establish the European Biophysical Community as a lively participant in the subject at the highest international level.

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Home Pages :

European Biophysics Journal :

<http://npbsn41.nimr.mrc.ac.uk/ebj1.html>.

EBJ Table of Contents and Abstracts :

<http://link.springer.de>

EBSA : Information

<http://npbsn41.nimr.mrc.ac.uk/ebsa1.html>